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Pictured above are members of the Patrick Henry Boys Home Choir (from left to right, top(: Kenny Moore, Harold Dawson, Jimmy Oulds, Bobby King, Robert Scott, Danny Staton, Doug Pridgen, Alvin Powell, Duane Wilson and Mike Cowan, who presented a program of Christmas music to the Appomattox Woman's Club.

BOYS CHOIR ENTERTAINS WOMENS CLUB

On Monday, December 6, the Appomattox Woman's Club held its Christmas meeting in the home of Mrs. Webb Babcock. Charmos was beautifully decorated for the holidays complete with a Christmas tree laden with gifts for the Boys Home.

Mr. Robert McCullough, Director of Patrick Henry Boys Home, gave an interesting account of happenings at the Home. He then introduced each boy in the choir and a very enjoyable program of Christmas music put everyone in a festive mood.

After the program, everyone enjoyed delicious refreshments.

CHRISTMAS WRAP

Aluminum foil makes any gift special looking and is especially marvelous for wrapping those odd shaped things that never seem to fit into any box. Wrap and tie with brightly colored yarn . . . several different colors at the same time!

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Slim Chance of Four Consecutive Years Traffic Death Reduction

RICHMOND - Virginia entered December with 932 reported traffic deaths for 1976, or 21 less than the 953 for the same period of 1975, Colonel H. W. Burgess, Supt. of State Police, reported today.

Colonel Burgess observed that on five past occasions Virginia has seen three consecutive years of traffic death reduction but never four. Noting that there were 1,256 deaths in 1972, 1,220 in 1973, 1,050 in 1974 and 1,030 in 1975, he remarked that if the 1,030 mark of last year can be lowered Virginia will have a traffic safety "first".

However, Colonel Burgess warned against too much optimism for, he said, the 77 deaths of last December gave the lowest December toll since 1960 and that December is, despite this, a dangerous month. "There are more hours of darkness than in any other month, more drinking, more pedestrian and vehicular traffic and general holiday inattention and preoccupation," he observed. He also stated that the 1976 reduction will inevitably be whittled down a bit through late reports and deaths of persons now carried as injured.

For the first nine months of 1976, pedestrian deaths were up from 160 last year to 163 and those of motorcyclists from 49 to 61. Bicycle deaths fell from 13 to 10 and those of servicemen from 27 to 27.

Tentative rate of deaths per each 100 million miles of travel was 2.9, the lowest ever, and traffic volumes were up an estimated 6.7 percent.

Restaurants And Foodstores Good Source For Large Containers

by Elmore Jordan Extension Agent

Need large containers for planting flowers and vegetables? See your local Resturant operator or foodstore dealer. They often have surplus 4-gallon plastic pickle buckets which are a good size for growing plants. Or, pick up inexpensive plastic buckets at your local hardware, automotive and paint store. Remember, drill several ¼-inch holes in the bottom of containers for drainage. Plastic buckets can be spray painted with a color of your choice.

Use these to grow radishes, small fruited peppers and cherry size tomatoes inside the home. Chive and parsley are also suitable to grow inside during the winter.

"BOOMER"
So says the VA . . . by CAISON/BROWN

Contact the nearest VA office (check your phone book) or a local veterans group.

HOLIDAY TIME SAVER

When cooking, double your favorite recipe and serve one half. Freeze the second for a pressured day. You'll have your dinner in just the time it takes to heat. Count it.

The Pastor Speaks

A recent issue of SATURDAY REVIEW described food as "our newest weapon". The articles about world hunger in that magazine seemed to argue that grain, milk, and meat were merely new additions to the American technological arsenal These might be the way to answer the use of oil for economic warfare in the future.

American farmers do furnish a large part of the world's food. We produce half of all the corn grown in the world, for example. Not only the poor nations, but also fairly strong nations, such as Germany and Japan, depend on American crops for their daily bread.

At Christmas, it's good think for a while about the way that Americans feed the world. Our table is full, when so many tables around the world are empty. Yet our responsibility for feeding the world is not merely to feed the physical hungers. We have a ministry to the spiritual hungers of the world as well. We must not forget, though, that Jesus was concerned with hungers of both body and soul.

What sort of food can you offer to your neighbors? Perhaps there are older people, who are lonely. Pehaps there are young people, with no place to go after school. Maybe you know somebody whose house is very drafty, and this will be a cold winter. Maybe you heard about a college student who doesn't have any dates. Perhaps you know about somebody who is sick, or somebody who has marriage trouble. There are many kinds of hunger in the world. There are many kinds of food which you can supply. Jesus, you remember, offered "living water" to the thirsty, and "living bread" to the hungry.

We also can serve as the "Bread of life" for the physical and spiritual hungers of the world.

James M. Becker
Pastor
The Appomattox United Methodist Circuit

ART SUPPLIES
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The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

Lesson for Dec. 9

The Coming Anticipated

Scripture: I Samuel 2: 1-10; Luke 1: 39-79

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1: 46 47

Nowhere is shown more clearly the differences between God's knowledge and man's thinking than in the coming of Christ. God had prepared the world religiously through the Jews, culturally through the Romans, politically through the Romans. All three currents came into focus in Palestine during the reign of Augustus Caesar. As we look through the hindsight of history, we see the world in a state such as it has not b een in before or since which was as well suited for the Savior's coming and for spreading the gospel of His salvation. It was the ideal time, made ideal because God had been working in history to make it so.

For the Jews it was a very bad time. They were anticipating the coming of Messiah, but the intensity of their anticipation is explained by their piety, not because they realized that in God's preparation the fullness of time has come. Over a half-century before, they had lost the independence which they had won under the Maccabees and which they had enjoyed for nearly a century. Now they were a subject people, under the authority of Rome, taxed heavily for the support of the empire, with detachments of Roman soldiers quartered in theircities and towns to maintain the pax Romana, the Roman peace which is synonymous with our law and order. They were ruled directly with Roman permission, by Herod, nominally a king, but a Roman vassal in fact, who was cruel and tyrannical.

Periodically Jewish Zealots rose in open rebellion against Rome, each time to be put down with severity featured by crucifixion of the ringleaders. With the exception of the Sadducess and Herodians, who found cooperation with the Roman advantageous and profitable, the Jews were rebellious in spirit and attitude, though the Pharisees and Essenes were not openly so as were the Zealots.

With a power as great as Rome's controlling them, the Jews had nowhere to look for hope except to the promised Messiah, who their prophets had told them would restore to them the throne and rule of David. In those dark days they eagerly awaited Messiah's coming, looking for signs. At least one, the devout Simeon of Jerusalem, lived in greater assurance than the others, for he had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would live to see the promised Messiah! A devout prophetess, the aged Anna, stayed in the Temple, in prayer and worship night and day, in anticipation of Messiah's arrival.

In this setting came the angelic announcements of the impending births of sons to Zechariah and to Mary and Joseph. The son who would be born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age would "go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins." John's was a truly remarkable birth, for his mother, Elizabeth, was long past the age of childbearing when he was born. With God nothing is impossible.

The son to be born to Mary was to be named Jesus and would "be called the Son of the Most High." To Him would be given the throne of His ancestor David, a promise to excite Jewish hopes. As evidence to Mary, who was not yet married, that she would bear a son who would be miraculously conceived, the angel told her that her elderly kinswoman Elizabeth was also to bear a son. If these circumstances appear strange, let us remember that we are dealing with the most remarkable happening in all history, the coming to earth of the divine and eternal Son of God in human flesh.

After receiving the announcement that a son would be born to her, Mary went to visit Elizabeth. Luke records a beautiful exchange of greetings between them. Mary's, known as the Magnificat from the first word in the Latin version of her response to Elizabeth's greeting, shows her thorough indoctrination in her Jewish heritage. Her hymn of praise for her part in God's plan is strikingly similar to Hannah's prayer when she lent her son Samuel to God.

Not only was Mary indoctrinated in her Jewish heritage, but she was completely dedicated to God. She willingly accepted the responsibility God committed to her, despite its risk. For in becoming pregnant before her marriage Mary not only risked social ostracism but also possible execution by stoning under Jewish law. Yet she trusted God to see her through these problems as He carried out His purpose through her.

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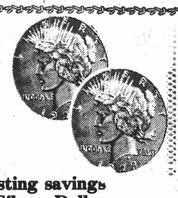

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